

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**107 SOUTH BROADWAY, ROOM 7011  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 620-2380

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT SUMMARYCosden Oil and Chemical Company  
534 W. Struck Avenue  
Orange, CA 92667  
CAD000097634

March 1986

Preparer: Mary Osborne  
Toxic Substances Control Division  
Southern California Section  
(213) 620-2380History and Problem:

This site was operated by Cosden Oil and Chemical Company, a division of American Petrofina, from 1976 until 1984. The site operator in October of 1984 was Nursery Supplies, Inc. The site was owned by Coldwell Banker of Newport Beach as of late 1984.

Prior to 1976, a company known as Granada Plastics installed seven underground tanks at the site. Three tanks from the northeast corner of the lot were removed in 1982 according to Lee Upchurch of the Orange Public Works Department. The removal was not permitted and no record of disposal has been located. The tanks were involved in a fire which probably necessitated their removal. It is unknown what happened to the other four tanks. A representative of Fina Oil and Chemical Company could not supply confirmation of their removal. The Orange County Fire Department has records of installation but no removal permits.

Former operations by Cosden Oil included production of polystyrene resin pellets until 1983, when sales and packaging were the only processes. Two major incidents in 1978 and 1982 involved releases of styrene monomer and resulted in the evacuation of residents near the facility. Waste products generated by the normal operations included polystyrene resin solvents, acids, oil, and wastewater. All visible waste products stored at the facility were removed in May of 1984 and hauled by California Pacific Oil.

March 1986

Recommendation:

Active status, medium priority is recommended for mitigation of the unknown status of four underground storage tanks. The tanks need to be removed if they are still on-site.

Further work at the site should include sampling of subsurface soils from the lot because of the previous incidents with chemical releases.

MO:mf

Active Status  
Fit should phone Orange Co.  
when they do their 1988 file  
review. Find out if site might  
score. Paul J. O'Quinn  
10.23.84

• how releases  
happened?  
• just oil?  
• is drinking water used?  
• do tanks need to be removed?  
• was sampling ever done?

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT  
Region 9

Preparer's Name Mary Osborne

Date September 1984

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1. Site ID Number	ERRIS	CAD000097634
2. Site Name	ERRIS	Cosden Oil and Chemical Company
3. Site Location	ERRIS	534 W. Struck Avenue Orange, CA 92667
4. County	ERRIS	Orange
5. Owner (Address & telephone no.)	Phone contact Gary Stache Coldwell Banker (714) 955-6332 9/20/84	Coldwell Banker 2161 San Joaquin Hills Rd. Newport Beach, CA (714) 644-9060
6. Operator (Address & telephone no.)	Orange County Health	Nursery Supplies Inc. (current) 534 W. Struck Avenue Orange, CA 92667 James Collins (714) 639-8361 (See Attachment)
7. Type of Ownership	ASP 3/27/80 memo	Corporate
8. Status	Gary Stache (714) 955-6332 9/20/84	Active (Nursery supplies)/ Cosden Oil: inactive
9. Source Activity	ASP Ques. 3/27/80 Orange County Health 3/23/84	Former Operations: Produce 60 million lbs/yr of polystyrene resin pellets. Packaging and sales only..
10. Years of Operation	CERCLA Notification 9/20/84 Phone memo	(See attachment) 1976 - present /1984 - new operator
11. Facility Type	EPA Form 8700-12 ASP Ques 3/27/80 Orange County Health	Generator: off-site disposal, three underground tanks for storage. Current: unknown
12. Waste Type and Description	ERRIS CERCLA ASP Ques. 3/27/80 Orange County Health	Organics, polystyrene, mass polym- erization (to Calabasas). Rinse- water, semi-solid plastic to Casmalia landfill. On-site disposal of rinsewater before 1972. Cleaning solvents, retrograde lab chemicals. Flammable solid polymer, oil and water.

13. Contacts Gary Stache, Coldwell Banker (714) 955-6332  
 Robert Nicklen, RWQCB (714) 684-9330  
 Richard Von Langen, Orange County Sanitation (714) 540-2910  
 Steven Wong, Orange County Health (714) 834-7690  
 See Agency Contact Record.

14. Incidents 10/30/82 - Explosion and fire: power outage caused overheating of styrene monomer. Residents evacuated.  
 8/18/78 - Explosive gas leak. Two ruptured tanks of Sterling Plastics, minor skin irritations and fume inhalation.  
 Fire and Explosion X Direct Contact X

15. Inspections (date, type, by whom, recommendations)

8/9/84 - DOHS - field check. No visible problems.  
 3/23/84 - Orange County Health. Lab closed in November of 1982. No longer manufacturer, just packaging and sales. Recommended hauling stored chemical wastes.  
 7/23/82 - ASP - field check. No problems visible, recommend inspection.  
 1976 - 1981 - CERCLA Notifier. In-plant spills of styrene: cleaned up and transported to approved off-site disposal.

16. Enforcement History (list date, type of action, requirements outcome)

10/30/83 - Orange County Fire Department. Containment of unstable reactor vessel. Electric power restored to monitor temperature and contain styrene.  
 8/18/78 - Gas leak, investigated by Cal-Osha, nearby homes evacuated until gas dissipated.

- 17.a. Initial recommendation for further action:

*Revised: 3/86*  
~~No further action at this site.~~ Old operator has documented clean-up with Orange County Health. New operator does not produce hazardous wastes.

- 17.b. EPA recommendation for further action:

*Active status, medium priority. KB 4/21/86*

18. Response Termination:      No Further Action      Pending      Active

Justification:

ITEM NUMBER	SOURCE	INFORMATION
6.	A.S.P. memo 3/27/80	former: American Petrofina (corporate) Cosden Oil & Chemical 534 W. Struck Ave. Orange, CA
10.	Shelley Hacker County Health Inspection 3/23/84	1976 - present 1984 - new operator